Another irregularity which the member pointed out was in regard to the adjournment of cases. It often happend that a case was adjourned for the examination of a particular party. An entry to this effect would be made in the diary. But the actual person examined on the day would not be the party, but witnesses on whichever side the Munsiff chose. The appellate courts seldom took notice of such irregularities.

As regards filing of affidavits, the member suggested that one of two alternative courses should be adopted. Either the number of persons before whom affidavits could be sworn should be increased or the number of applications to be supported by affidavits should be reduced.

In regard to the examination of parties and witnesses, the member pointed out that sometimes even though a witness was present in court he was not called or examined, and then proceedings would be started against him for non-compliance with the summons of the court. Warrant would be issued against him for arrest and his property would be placed under attachment. In such cases, the amin would exact a good amount from the poor person. A similar case occurred in recent times in the Munsiff's Court, Attingal. In C. 583 of 97 on the file of that court, on the day fixed for examination the second defendant in the suit attended the court and was present there till evening, but when he returned home, warrant was issued against him for non-attendance and he was arrested.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kali Kurup, and other members who have sent up subjects regarding the administration of justice, in particular civil justice, I see there are no less than nine members who wish to make representations on the subject. I shall hear all the members before I make a reply on the subject. So I propose taking these subjects relating to administration of justice tomorrow morning and not to-day.

16. Adoption of measures to prevent the manufacture and sale of spurious and adulterated tea.

MR. ALBERT J. WRIGHT (*Member, Kannan Devan Planters' Association*) said that the subject he had taken up was one which concerned not only the Kannan Devan Planters' Association and the other tea producing interests in the State but also the entire industry throughout the Indian Empire, more particularly the portion of it which was located in the Madras Presidency.

The subject called for consideration from at least two destinct points of view: first, the unscrupulous exploitation of one of the most valuable industries of the State, and secondly the menace to public health from the consumption of rubbish which it ought not to be possible to place on the market. The planting community had done a great deal to help itself in this matter. In the manufacture of tea, a certain amount of residue remained which was classified as tea fluff or tea waste and factory sweepings. Though actually tea, it was considered undesirable to market it as such for a considerable number of years and by far the greater portion of it was now sold only on a guarantee that it would not be used for human consumption but for chemical purposes

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only and usually it was exported at once to large chemical manufacturing concerns. This procedure was adopted as it was found that the waste was being mixed with sound tea, in order to increase the profits of those purveying tea to the public in this country, who were gradually developing a taste for tea as a beverage. This process of mixing could scarcely be called adulteration in the generally accepted sense, though it bordered on that, seeing that the waste was actually a product of the tea plant. But it was now found that a large and steadily increasing quantity of low grade tea was being imported from sources outside India. Nor could such importation be checked as there was no standard prescribed for the quality of the tea imported.

There was also another trouble. A very large trade had in recent years sprung up in South India in the production and sale of imitation tea made from various products such as black gram husk. One of the active centres of this trade was traced to Travancore, where imitation tea was being turned out on a large scale from the leaves of a jungle plant bearing no relation to tea at all.

The manufacture of this kind of spurious tea at Atirampuzha was brought to the notice of Government as long ago as June 1927. It was then admitted that Government were fully aware of the existence of these factories but as matters stood then they were powerless to stop the trade. So far, however, Government had apparently taken no effective steps in the matter.

The present object of the member was to remind Government of this trouble to which the tea industry was subjected and to request Government to take steps to put a stop to the adulteration of tea and also to see what could be done to put a stop to the manufacture and sale of imitations which were not tea at all.

The planting interests contributed very largely to the revenues of the State under headings such as the export duty upon their commodity and income tax and they felt that they had a very strong case for appeal for protection from this exploitation of their industry which not only deprived them of a market for a considerable quantity of their product but tended to lower the reputation of the tea produced in Travancore which it was ever their object to keep at a very high level.

From the point of view of public health also it was unfair, to say the least of it, if not actively injurious, to allow the public to have a spurious product foisted upon them and from the action being taken now in the various Provinces of British India it was evident that the need for putting a stop to the practice was being recognized. The Government of Bengal in which Province an enormous quantity of the world's supply of tea was produced, led the way in this matter some time ago and was followed by others whilst still others had the matter under enquiry and consideration. The entire planting interests in India taxed themselves voluntarily to provide funds for propaganda for the sale of good, sound, cheap tea, but it was beyond their power to ensure that the poorer and illiterate members of the population were not imposed upon

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by unscrupulous persons. It was here that the need for action on the part of Government came in and they trusted that this progressive State would not lag behind in this matter.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Wright, I do not regard this question of adequate measures being taken to prevent the adulteration of tea as one, as you remarked, pertaining merely to the Kannan Devan Hills Produce Company but to the whole production of tea in the Travancore State. There is one aspect of the case which merits particular attention on the part of Government. And that is, once Travancore tea, which at present enjoys the reputation of being of a high standard, degenerates and acquires a bad name, which will necessarily come from the adulteration that is largely going on now, the general value of our tea will suffer and thereby the producer, and indirectly, the State also. It is for this reason that we took up nearly a year ago the question of what measures are necessary to put a stop to this adulteration. It is true our Penal Code contains provisions against the sale or attempt at sale, or putting upon the market of noxious substances in the matter of food and drink. Offences under this head are punishable by six months' imprisonment or a fine up to Rs. 1,000 or both. The difficulty arises whether adulterated tea can be brought under the head of noxious substances of human consumption. That point is also being examined and it will not merely be the opinion of lawyers on this subject but also of chemical analysis and medical men that will be necessary. As I have said, that question is also under examination at present.

The other aspect of the question is legislation in case the Penal Code provisions are found to be inadequate. Special legislation might take two forms: one is making the adulteration of tea, or the sale, or attempt at selling adulterated tea a punishable offence; the other—possibly, it must be supplementary to the one I just mentioned—is the disposal of tea waste. You have just pointed out that some of the tea producers of Travancore have adopted a self-restraining ordinance, a meritorious practice, to issue such waste only to chemists for the production of chemical extracts of tea. But apparently unless that restraint is universal in the country, it will be of little use one company or one set of companies or group of companies enforcing that restraint upon themselves. I shall, therefore, ask the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil who is now drafting a bill on the subject of prevention of tea adulteration to take also into consideration the question of legislating against sale or other utilisation of tea-waste. Apparently the best way of dealing with it will be to make it compulsory, under the law, for destruction by the producer. A third way of safeguarding the reputation of Travancore tea will be to put a Government mark on every chest as passed for human consumption. There may be difficulties about this but I shall have this aspect of the question also examined. You commented on the fact that this adulteration was brought to the notice of the Government some little time ago. It is true; but the matter has come under my notice even before you had brought the matter to my notice. I have discovered from independent sources that Atirampuzha is the unenviable centre in Travancore of this most pernicious trade. I shall

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see what measures we can take under the existing law to check it. In the meanwhile you can rest assured that the Government of Travancore are very anxious for the good name of Travancore generally, in the interests of the trade of the State as a whole and also in the interests of particular planting concerns, that every possible attempt should be made to stamp out this evil. The question of legislation will be proceeded with as soon as possible. If you, or your associate planters, can render any help in this matter by bringing to notice legislation elsewhere enacted to counteract the same, I shall be greatly obliged if you will place what information you have at the disposal of the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil whom I shall ask to consult you.

17. Introduction of legislation establishing taluk boards and district boards in the State.

MR. NARAYANA PILLAI GOVINDA PILLAI (*Member, Neyyattinkara taluk, Group II*) said that progress in the sphere of politics depended chiefly upon the growth of representative institutions. The government of the people for the people by the people was the ideal form of Government. This ideal could be reached only slowly and by stages. The people should first be associated with the Government, they should then be given more and more functions and eventually the whole Government should be entrusted to them.

Viewed in the light of this ideal, the Government of Travancore deserved unqualified praise. They had organised and developed such representative institutions as the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the Legislative Council, the several Municipal Councils, and the Village Panchayat Courts. There was little doubt therefore that at this critical juncture in the history of British India and of the Indian States, the Government should give some more powers to the people. In British India the agitation for political reforms was at its zenith. Echoes of this agitation were to be heard in the States also. The fact that the Government of Travancore did nothing to stifle the legitimate aspirations of the people itself did credit to their broadmindedness. At this important juncture therefore it could reasonably be expected that the Government would do something to foster the growth of self-governing institutions in the State.

Government should establish taluk boards in all the taluks. There should be at least 12 members, including the president, in each board. The Tahsildar of the taluk might be nominated by Government as the president of the board, and the local medical officer, P. W. D. Section Officer, and Inspector of Schools as official members. The local S. M. P. A. member and the member of the Legislative Council should also be members in the board. The remaining members should be elected by the taluk. Every board should meet once a month. They should be able to ascertain the needs of each taluk in regard to sanitation, education, irrigation, communication, registry of lands etc., and

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